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Chapter 5

Sports

In his early manhood Andrew Edmiston seems to have had a consuming passion for athletic exercises, boxing, wrestling, and feats of muscular endurance. There was living at the time one Thomas Johnson, near the head of Stony Creek, who claimed to be the champion hard hitter of all that region. He heard of young Edmiston's exploits as an athlete, and these exploits created some doubt as to who was the "best man"; and to settle the dispute the ambitious Stony Creek champion sent a challenge to the champion of the Little Levels, that if he would meet him he would find out that though he might be the best the Levels could show, that he would soon find himself nowhere on Stony Creek if he just dared to show himself up there. This fired young Edmiston and made him as hot as the furnace we read about in Daniel. He may have sought rest but he did not find any that night, and so set out by the light of the morning to West Union. He walked from his home near Locust to John Smiths on Stony Creek--15 or more miles, before breakfast to dispute the question of "best man" with Tom Johnson. Without stopping for rest or breakfast, he sailed into Johnson tooth, fist and toenail. In the first round Johnson landed a terrific blow on Edmiston's shoulder dislocating it, yet he continued the contest until he saw

his opportunity, and overpowered Johnson until he called out enough.

John Smith then took charge of the victor and gave him his breakfast. By noon he was back in the Levola. He felt the effects of that dislocation all of his life. Slight exertion would ever after make his injured arm fly out of place at the shoulder.

In his later years he professed a change of heart and became a member of the M.E. Church. His sincerity was respected by all who knew him best, and regarded as genuine. He died in 1864, aged 87 years. When his dying day came, it was found that he had nothing to do but die. God had not cast him off in the time of old age, nor forsaken him when his strength failed him. At evening time it was light with this venerable man, and he could realize the power of words like these: "I will go in the strength of the Lord God; I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only."

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